



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

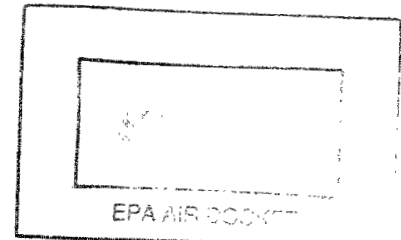
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AUG 15 2000

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

R-19J

Christopher Jones  
Director  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216



Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your July 31, 2000, letter forwarding your State's analysis about areas where ozone air pollution poses a threat to public health. We intend to carefully review your analysis and will work with you in determining final boundaries for your nonattainment areas.

Even though the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) new smog standard is pending before the courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in its 1999 decision recognized that the designation process could continue. USEPA is obligated under the Clean Air Act and the 1998 Transportation Equity Act to complete this process, which includes reviewing your analysis and responding later this year.

As a result, USEPA is moving forward with the designation process. We are proceeding with this action to protect public health in parallel with appealing other parts of the May 14, 1999, D. C. Circuit decision to the Supreme Court. This will ensure that citizens living in nonattainment areas will have cleaner air as quickly as possible once the ongoing litigation is completed. Together we can move forward to bring cleaner, healthier air to the citizens in your State.

The USEPA looks forward to working with Ohio in the coming months on designating areas for the ozone air quality standard. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or contact William Jones, of my staff, at (312) 886-6058.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**  
**DAVID A. ULLRICH**  
Francis X. Lyons,  
Regional Administrator